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| CATEGORY | 14 | 10 | 6 | 2 |
| **Support for Topic (Content)** | Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable. | Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the storyline is unsupported. | Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the storyline are unsupported. | Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic. |
| **Sequencing (Organization)** | Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader. | Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented/introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting. | Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. | Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized. |
| **Transitions (Organization)** | A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected. | Transitions clearly show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety. | Some transitions work well; but connections between other ideas are fuzzy. | The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistant. |
| **Adding Personality (Voice)** | The writer seems to be writing from knowledge or experience. The author has taken the ideas and made them \"his own.\" | The writer seems to be drawing on knowledge or experience, but there is some lack of ownership of the topic. | The writer relates some of his own knowledge or experience, but it adds nothing to the discussion of the topic. | The writer has not tried to transform the information in a personal way. The ideas and the way they are expressed seem to belong to someone else. |
| **Word Choice** | Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader\'s mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced. | Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader\'s mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone. | Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair. | Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader\'s interest. Jargon or cliches may be present and detract from the meaning. |
| **Sources** | All supportive facts are reported accurately. | Almost all supportive facts are reported accurately. | Most supportive facts are reported accurately. | NO facts are reported OR most are inaccurately reported. |
| **Mechanics** | Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. |